

**CITY OF NORTH CANTON
RESIDENTIAL WATER RATE REDUCTION PROGRAM
FOR CERTAIN RESIDENTS AGE 65 OR OLDER OR DISABLED
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

Q. What is the "Residential Water Rate Reduction Program"?

A. The "Residential Water Rate Reduction Program" is a new program the City has created to replace the former Homestead Water and Sewer Rate Discount. The Program is available for all City residents who are age 65 or older, who own and occupy their residence as their principal place of residence and have a total combined household income of \$27,000 or less, or are permanently disabled.

Q. What discount do I receive?

A. Those who qualify receive a 50% reduction in their water rate.

Q. How is this program different from the previous Homestead Discount program?

A. The former program offered a 50% discount on their water and sewer rates, as long as the resident received the Homestead Discount through the County.

Q. Why did the City change the program?

A. As a result in a change in state law which eliminated the income requirement in order to qualify for the Homestead Exemption, a significant number of residents were now eligible to receive the Homestead discounted rates. The number of applicants increased from approximately 150 to a potential of over 1,500. The City's water and sewer funds could not absorb this additional loss in revenue. In addition, the intent of the City's original Homestead program was to aid senior citizen residents who were in need of financial assistance.

Q. How do I sign up for the "Residential Water Rate Reduction Program"?

A. The qualified resident must complete an application and must provide proof of income. Residents can stop by the City of North Canton Utilities office or an application can be mailed to you. The application will also be available on the City's website, www.northcantonohio.com.

Q. I received the Homestead Exemption prior to the change in law, do I have to re-apply?

A. No. If you received the Homestead discounted rates prior to the end of 2007, then you will be automatically grandfathered into the program. You do not need to reapply. However, the City does reserve the right to request proof of income at any point in time.

Q. What is considered income? What proof do I have to provide?

A. Income includes all income of both the homeowner and spouse. It includes, but is not limited to, Social Security, Pension, Investment and Interest Income, or any other income that should be reported on a federal income tax return. A copy of your most recent federal income tax return should be provided with the application. If you do not file an income tax return, please contact us for further guidance.

Q. I am disabled. What type of proof do I need to provide?

A. You can provide proof of disability received from Social Security.

Q. How long is the Residential Water Rate Reduction Program in effect?

A. This program will expire after the September 1, 2008 billing period. Prior to that date, City Council will evaluate the program to determine if it should continue as it is or if any changes should be made to the program.

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PURSUANT TO ORDINANCE 16-08

DISCOUNT AVAILABLE: Fifty (50%) percent reduction in water fees for City residents only.

QUALIFICATIONS: To qualify, the applicant must own and reside in the primary residence in the City of North Canton and be 65 years of age with an income level (or combined income level, if applicable) of **\$27,000 or below**, or the homeowner is permanently disabled. Proof of disability must be provided.

TOTAL INCOME: This includes the income of all owners living at the residence, to include the income of the spouse of each owner and must come from your Federal Income Tax return. If you do not file a Federal Income Tax return, proof of income must be provided.

Name of Applicant _____ Name of Spouse _____

Address _____ Telephone Number _____

Age of Applicant _____ Date of Birth _____

Age of Spouse _____ Date of Birth _____

Date Home Acquired _____ Parcel # _____

Names of All Owners of Home (if different from above) _____

Income Verification: **Please attach a copy of your Federal Income Tax Return for previous year.**

☐ **If you do not file a tax return, please check box and attach proof of income.**

YOUR SIGNATURE: By signing this form, the City of North Canton is authorized to examine financial records that relate to your income. The City of North Canton reserves the right to request proof of income, at the discretion of the Director of Finance, at any time.

I declare under penalty of perjury that I occupy this homestead as my principal place of residence and that I have examined this application. To the best of my knowledge and belief this application is true, correct and complete.

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____

Mail completed forms to:
CITY OF NORTH CANTON PUBLIC UTILITIES
RESIDENTIAL WATER RATE REDUCTION PROGRAM
145 NORTH MAIN STREET
NORTH CANTON, OH 44720

For questions regarding utility bill discounts, call North Canton Public Utilities 330/499-4801.